I’m delighted to welcome everyone – students, community members, staff and faculty to the 2019-2020 academic year. We have a rich and varied year of events and programming planned for the year, including a range of exciting speakers and conferences. The center is also working on expanding its digital communications reach and will continue to offer fellowship opportunities that will serve the broad range of interests of our students.

Let me first take the opportunity to thank Will Glover for his capable leadership over the past year. As a member of the CSAS executive committee, I had first-hand view of his commitment to the work of the center. Will has left in place some new and valuable additions to the staff. Clemente Beghi, our new program coordinator, has plunged into his role with dedication. Clemente has a PhD in Japanese Pre-modern Buddhist Art History from Cambridge University and we are lucky to have someone of his caliber as part of our team. I am also pleased to introduce, Josie Tolin our new India Communications Specialist. Josie is a recent U-M graduate and she manages the Center’s social media accounts and creates news stories and podcasts on India. She has also been developing our brand new India Impact website committed to promoting and expanding ongoing connections between U-M and India. You can find our India Impact project at www.uminidaimpact.org.

We are also lucky to have some new members of our community. Sumita Chakraborty is a poet, essayist, and scholar of literary studies who joins us. She is the Helen Zell Visiting Professor in Poetry. Vidya Mohan joined the department of Asian Languages and Culture last fall as the first Tamil instructor that U-M has had in twelve years. U-M is now one of just 8 colleges in the U.S. with a Tamil program. Swapnil Rai is a Global Media scholar whose work develops global perspectives on Bollywood and the media in India. It is often the case that as we are lucky to welcome new members of our community, we also sometimes have to say goodbye to precious colleagues. Aswin Punamatheker is considering leaving U-M for an attractive new position at another leading institution. Aswin’s intellectual and leadership contributions to the Center have been numerous and invaluable. Over the years, we have benefited from his knowledge, his collegiality, his hard work and his wholehearted support of the Center. We also thank him for his leadership as Director over the past summer.

We wish him the very best for his exciting new future directions.

CSAS has a number of interesting events planned for the upcoming year. The Thomas Trautmann Honorary Lecture of Pre Modern India will be given by Professor Christopher Mirokowski from the University of Oxford on September 20. Our second endowed lecture, the Kavita Datla Memorial Lecture on South Asia, will be given by Professor Mukul Alam from the University of Chicago on April 17. The center will be hosting two major conferences – our annual U-M Pakistan conference on March 13 and “The Making of the Cambridge History of the Modern Indian Subcontinent” conference on Sept 24-25. We will also be hosting a film series in the winter semester with documentaries from the Film South Asia festival. There are many other speakers scheduled who will share their knowledge on South Asia from a range of perspectives. You can find a full schedule of events at the end of this newsletter.

Other important activities include work by our students. Our undergraduate students fellows continue to conduct research in South Asia. You can learn about the interesting activities of our past fellows from their own perspectives through the summer fellows’ blog, https://blog.csas.ii.unc.edu/. Finally our annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference will be held on January 31.

In addition to our array of events, the center is also participating in the University’s Presidential delegation to India in November. We are delighted to be part of this important endeavor and will continue working to expand and strengthen the connections between U-M and India.

As the new academic year begins, I and all of the staff members at CSAS are looking forward to working with you as we continue our efforts in building our community and disseminating knowledge about South Asia. The study of South Asia enriches the intellectual life of U-M in many ways and you will find more information on the past year’s activities in this newsletter. We look forward to continuing this work both through our initiatives and conversations at U-M and through our collaborations with intellectual communities and institutions in South Asia.

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events, all of which are free and open to the public.

Leela Fernandes
Glenda Dickerson Collegiate Professor of Women’s Studies and Professor of Political Science

Remembering Kavita Datla

Kavita’s life and career were tragically cut short, but she had an incredible passion for the study of history that began to take shape at U-M and lasted through her final days.

On an unusually cold and inclement November evening, a steady crowd of people began to trickle into the U-M Museum of Art’s Helmut Stern Auditorium. The below-freezing temperatures couldn’t dissuade them from attending a talk by Prof. Sudipta Kaviraj of Columbia University. Among the people who filled the front seats of the hall were the Datla family—parents, brothers and other relatives. Their daughter, Kavita Datla, wasn’t in attendance, but everyone felt her presence. Kavita received her bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Michigan in 1997 and then pursued her master’s degree at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi. She completed her doctorate at the University of California, Berkeley and soon began teaching at Mount Holyoke as an assistant professor in the department of history.

The Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) organized a lecture series to honor Kavita’s work and her passion for research in India, enabled by a generous donation from the Datla family and friends. On asking Vishnu Datla what it means to have a lecture series in the memory of his sister, he said, “Our family and friends are deeply honored to endorse this lecture in Kavita’s name. We are very much a Michigan family. My parents have lived in the state for nearly 40 years and Kavita, my brother Bobby, and I all attended U-M as undergrads.”

Professor Sudipta Kaviraj, a professor of Indian Politics and Intellectual History, gave an enlightening talk on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – a social reformer who campaigned against discrimination towards the untouchables in India – and his struggles with history. It was a fitting presentation to honor Kavita Datla, who was passionate about the study of history that began to take shape at U-M and lived through her final days.

On April 17, 2020, and will be delivered by Dr. Muzaffar Alam, George V. Bobinski Professor at the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, the University of Chicago, with the title “Who was a Muslim? Religious ideas and Muslim identities in Mughal North India.”

“Remembering Kavita Datla”

Datla, born in 1975, passed away in July, 2017, after a hard-fought battle with a rare form of cancer. She was an associate professor at Mount Holyoke College at the time of her death and was promoted to full professor posthumously.

Kavita’s life and career were tragically cut short by cancer, but she had an incredible passion for the study of history that began to take shape at U-M and lasted through her final days. We are very grateful to the CSAS for establishing this lecture because we can’t think of a better way to honor Kavita’s legacy. She would have been proud to support the study of South Asian History for future generations of scholars at U-M.”

Death need not be the end for scholars and intellectuals, as their work and research continue to live on in the minds and conversations of those who engage their ideas.

The year’s lecture will take place on April 17, 2020, and will be delivered by Dr. Muzaffar Alam, George V. Bobinski Professor at the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, the University of Chicago, with the title “Who was a Muslim? Religious ideas and Muslim identities in Mughal North India.”

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Cover photo: Dwayne McCaland of Harvard’s Tomdr, Delhi
Editors: David Merchant, Clemente Beghi
 ANCIENT INDIA AND ENCOURAGED VIOLENCE, AND RESISTANCE IN

Singh addressed conflict, violence, and resistance in ancient India and encouraged examining the relationship between violence and the state. She also discussed kingship’s legitimization of violence in the social sphere and explored resistance to violence among various social groups. The audience was left with pressing, timely questions about the role of the historian in contemporary discussions about violence, and whether these discussions threaten to dismantle historiographic objectivity.

Her writings range over various aspects of the political, social, economic, religious and intellectual history of ancient India; the history of Indian archaeology; and interactions between India and Southeast Asia. She is the author of Kings, Brahmanas, and Temples in Orissa: An Epigraphic Study; Ancient Delhi; The Discovery of Ancient India: Early Archaeologists and the Beginnings of Archaeology; A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the Twelfth Century; and Rethinking Early Medieval India; Asian Encounters: Exploring Connected Histories and Buddhism in Asia: Revival and Reinvention. Her most recent book is Political Violence in Ancient India. This year’s lecture will take place on September 20, 2019, and will be delivered by Dr. Christopher Minkowski, Boden Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Oxford, with the title “Early Readers and Early Readings of the Mahabharata.”

THE DISCOVERY OF ANCIENT INDIA

The 10th Annual Michigan India Conference (MIC) was held at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business on February 14th-15, 2019. MIC is one of the largest India-focused conferences in the country, aiming to feature Indian leaders making an impact in India and across the world in all industries, including business, healthcare, politics, and social impact. This year’s theme focused on the auspicious future of India’s market. With the highest growth rate of any large economy today, India has recently been lauded as the global superpower of the future.

With over 300 attendees congregating in Ann Arbor from across the Midwest, one of the many influential speakers was Indian yogi and author Sadhguru. He sat down with the MIC board in Robertson Auditorium to discuss key practices one should follow to stay young and truthful. Later in the day, Dinesh Arora, Deputy CEO of India’s flagship healthcare program Ayushman Bharat, spoke about the strides the country has made in making interventions in primary care systems.

This year’s theme would not be possible without generous sponsorships from both within and outside of the University. The University of Michigan’s Center for South Asian Studies, Rackham Student Government, Ross India Initiatives, and Ross C.K. Prahalad Initiatives all played vital roles in organization and funding for this event. A special thank you extends to Mahindra Automotive North America and DWG, a cognitive decision-making platform.

More info, including sponsors here: https://www.michiganindiaconference.com/
The 9th annual University of Michigan (U-M) Pakistan Conference entitled “Spaces of Capital” was held on March 30, 2019. Organized by the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS), the U-M Pakistan Conference is an initiative aimed at highlighting new research in Pakistan while fostering conversations between academics, journalists, activists, and artists. This year’s theme highlighted the interconnections between capital, state, and infrastructure in the everyday relations and social formations of Pakistan.


This year’s theme highlighted the intersections between capital, state, and infrastructure and their role in the everyday relations and social formations of Pakistan.

Saima Zaidi (Habib University) then presented her exhibit, Sheherzade: The Walled City Anthology. Zaidi’s presentation included artwork from her art installation in the walled city of Lahore. This project entailed the collaboration of artists, craftsmen, designers, architects, and graphic designers to recreate and display art within the walled city. In turn, this project created a space for community awareness, tourism, and cultural heritage.

Following Zaidi’s panel was a screening of the documentary, “Perween Raman: The Rebel Optimist.” Direct Mahera Omar’s film documents the life, work, and final moments of Perween Raman, an architect and urban planner in Karachi. Her work on the Orangi Pilot Project served to develop affordable sanitation models to serve the lower-class community of Orangi while challenging the water and land mafia.

Matthew Hull (Department of Anthropology) concluded this year’s conference by engaging panelists in a discussion regarding the panel’s intersections between capital, state, and infrastructure. The panelists also offered their reflections on the state of the field in Pakistani Studies. This conference was made possible with the generous co-sponsorships by: the Institute for the Humanities, the Rackham Graduate Library News

New Database: Area Studies—India

The University Library has recently acquired a new database called “Area Studies—India.” It was purchased with Office of Education funds that the Center for South Asian Studies generously gave to the library. This Adam Matthew database includes materials that were originally in microfilm. For more information please check the site: https://www.amdigital.co.uk-primary-sources/area-studies-india

During the summer the Library’s South Asia division had an intern, Estrella Salgado, who created an online exhibit entitled “The Rampasar in South & Southeast Asia.” Estrella received a Michigan Library Scholars award and worked in the International Studies department. Estrella is a rising junior majoring in History and Museum studies. Please feel free to visit the online display through the Library’s homepage.

The aim of the conference has been to showcase the work of graduate students at the University of Michigan who are working on South Asia. Professor Indrani Chatterjee (Postdoctoral Fellow, Communication and Media) which highlighted the key questions and research sites which constitute South Asia’s digital terrain at large.

This was followed by the first panel, Tejaswini Garli’s (Associate Professor, NYU Anthropology) presentation, “Finding and Creating that Social Connect: The Centrality of Audiovisual Translation in Contemporary Entertainment Media in India” discussed her research in Mumbai’s dubbing studios, with a close case study of the Hindi dubbing process for an Indian Netflix original series, Sacred Games.

Meheli Sen (Associate Professor, Rutgers African, Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Literature), presented on the changing modes of gender and representation in Hindi-language web series in her talk, “Between Bollywood and a Hard Place: Gender and Politics in Indian Web Series.”

Sriram Mohan (PhD Candidate, Communication and Media) concluded the morning session with a presentation, “Platforming The Regional: Satire, Streaming Video and Everyday Politics in South India” discussing her research in Mumbai’s dubbing studios, with a focus on the Hindi dubbing process for an Indian Netflix original series, Sacred Games. Mohan’s talk looked at how small and local players in Tamil Nadu were weaving the political into their everyday digital practice.

In the afternoon, Prof. Indrani Chatterjee (Postdoctoral Fellow, Communication and Media) provided an introductory talk, which highlighted the key questions and research sites which constitute South Asia’s digital terrain at large.

At 1:00 PM, the conference room was filled to the brim as attendees gathered for the film screening. The film, “Feels No Pain; Vasan Bala, 2019” followed by a Q&A with the film’s producer Ankur Khanna. The screening highlighted the everyday relations and social formations of Pakistan.

This conference was made possible by the generous support of the American Institute of Pakistani Studies, as well as a number of units at the U-M. This conference was also funded in part by a Title V Federal grant from the US Department of Education.
partnering with professor jyotika virdi and the university of windsor, csas screened 6 award winning documentaries from the 2018 film south asia film festival (kathmandu, nepal). the series was part of what is called travelling film south asia (tfsa), a special package sent around the globe, with the best movies of the festival, encapsulating the various flavours of the indian subcontinent.

the films drew interest not only among the u-m community, but also among the local ann arbor public, and that of southeast michigan in general.

the films screened were: fireflies in the abyss, saaz – a ballad of maladies, is it too much to ask, pweeeen rahmar: the rebel optimist, lock and key, and rasan pua.

shilpi gulati, the director of lock and key, was present at the screening of her documentary and shared with us behind-the-scene aspects of the documentary making process.

this year, 12 films will be screened during the winter term, on wednesdays, from 1/15 to 4/8, starting at 6:30pm.

this year’s workshop will focus on empire, decolonization, and independence in global history and literature.

this year’s workshop will focus on empire, decolonization, and independence in global history and literature. and will be held december 6-7 and december 14, 2019. drawing on different historical examples, whai will discuss imperial systems and uprisings, as well as decolonization and independence movements. whai aims not only to promote teachers’ knowledge of global empires and imperial practices, but also to explore the challenges of teaching this content and ways to make the information accessible to students.

this year csas again participated in the 10th annual joint university of puerto rico and university of michigan symposium. as part of the effort to create sustainable links with institutions serving underrepresented populations, csas and several other national resource centers at the international institute have built a partnership with the colleges of education, humanities, and social sciences at the university of puerto rico. there are no title vi national resource centers on the island of puerto rico; there are also no hispanic serving institutions in the state of michigan. thanks to deep existing ties between our institutions, we are able to extend access to area studies and language resources at u-m to faculty and students at upr, to in-service teachers in the region around upr, and to their k-12 students.

each year, the international institute sends mixed delegations of area studies experts to upr for a k-16 professional and curriculum development symposium and workshop organized around topics that cross multiple disciplines and allow representation from different world regions.

the annual symposium aims to create a space in which graduate students from both universities can share innovative ways of studying concepts, as well as interactions with other categories and topics. among them, but not excluding others, are intersections of civil and human rights, political traditions, migration, identity politics, religion, political participation, public education, memory, gender, race, sexuality, neoliberalism, nationalism, and cultural policies.

at the 2019 um-upr symposium entitled, “race, ethnicity, and nationalism across borders,” graduate students from um and upr, working from many disciplines, methodologies, and historical contexts, presented on topics concerning border tensions, questions of racial and ethnic identity, and nationalism. one csas student, janaki phillips was among the presenters.

this past school year i was honored to become a part of the educational outreach of the center for south asian studies.

attending the conference and film showings of the center, as well as talking to staff members and visiting scholars, has helped me enormously in critiquing and working to improve our south asian curriculum. the highlight of my world history classes was undoubtedly the asian humanities fair held in may. with the assistance of the international institute, students hosted tables promoting language study opportunities and cultural awareness of east and south asia.

my students from india, bangladesh, korea and china were particularly helpful in representing their heritage. we have made enormous progress this past school year with the help of all the area study centers and in particular the center for south asian studies.”
and yoga, now 14 years old, provides an opportunity for UM students to go to Mysore, India and there (135 students have participated over the study in the homes of music and dance teachers.

Stephen Rush - The Summer Program in Music and Yoga, now 14 years old, provides an opportunity for UM students to go to Mysore, India and there (135 students have participated over the study in the homes of music and dance teachers. Stephen Rush was awarded a UM Communities Grant for his project "Multiple Worlds" which was published in the special issue of the Indian Ocean World.

Swapnil Rai - My research broadly engages with media industry studies, its interrelationship with the economics and sociology of media and its interplay with questions of power, gender, race and representation. I primarily focus on South Asia as a centripetal organizing force to study global media industries and media flows in the BRICs. Brazil, Russia, India, China region. My current book project is about the history of global flows of Indian films and the role of the star in Bollywood production culture and industry globalization.

Sumita Chakraborty - I'm a poet and a scholar, and the main thing that brings me to the University of Michigan is its thriving poetry community both in creative writing and in literary studies. I have admired the work of a number of poets and scholars at Michigan for a very long time. I'm very excited to come here and be a part of such a dynamic community of scholars.

CSAS: What will you be teaching this year and what would you like to accomplish in your spare time?

Swapnil Rai: I’m teaching two courses, one on Transnational Women’s Cinema and the other on global Media.

Sumita Chakraborty: I haven’t yet moved to Ann Arbor, so I’m afraid I have no access to any Ann Arbor secret! But I look forward to discovering— or, more accurately, thinking I’ve discovered them, since I imagine those who have been in Ann Arbor already know a great deal more about the area than I will as a new transplant. I am excited to have already learned about the partnership between One Paus Poetry and White Lotus Farms: I’ve been invited to read at White Lotus in September, and it looks like a stunning venue. But I can’t imagine that’s a secret, or at least I hope it isn’t, because they seem wonderful!

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Sriram Mohan, a PhD candidate in the Department of Communication, Studies, received the Katherine Singer Koszarski Essay Award from the Society of Cinema and Media Studies in March 2019 for an article titled “A Sound Bridge: Listening for the Political in a Digital Age,” co-authored with Aswin Punathambekar and published in the International Journal of Communication in November 2017. Sriram was also the lead author of a paper titled “Localizing YourImage: Language, Cultural Regions, and Digital Platforms,” published in the International Journal of Cultural Studies in April 2019. And in July 2019, “Global Digital Cultures: Perspectives from South Asia,” an edited volume co-authored by Aswin Punathambekar and Sriram, was published by the University of Michigan Press and made available via open access.

Megh Marathe is a PhD candidate in the School of Information working at the intersection of medical anthropology, disability studies, and science & technology studies. They conduct ethno- graphic fieldwork with neurologists and people with epilepsy (including Megh) to study the chronic contingency of both the clinical diagnosis and the lived experience of epilepsy. In 2018-19, Megh received a dissertation research grant from Microsoft Research, a public scholarship award from the Rackham program in public scholarship, and a mini-grant from the UM Initiative in Disability Studies. They also helped organize the annual symposium of the UM program in Science, Technology & Society. and Politics, recently received a MA Scholarship. She is interested in issues of international development, empire and education, and exploring decolonial alternatives to dominant educational paradigms. In her research, Parakkal examines how youth from historically marginalized communities in the global south (focusing on South Asia), navigate the process of (un)learning local/indigenous epistemologies in order to accommodate, resist, and transform hegemonic discourses around globalization, development, and modernity. Parakkal plans to write and defend her dissertation proposal next term.

Naivedya Parakkal, a PhD student in Educational Studies, Educational Foundations History. Mukherjee is interested in a longer pre-history and history of the post-partition neighbourhoods in Delhi. Starting from the anti-Sikh genocide of 1984, Mukherjee seeks to move back in time to understand the quotidian lives and the making of Delhi as the urban space, which was the backdrop of the violence. He spent most of the 2019 summer meeting octogenarian Sikh partition refugees in Delhi and rummaging through the archives in Delhi in search of the documentary traces of Delhi’s making.

Khandelwal is a doctoral student in the History of South Asian Art and Visual Culture. Writing her dissertation on as a book project, draws on 20 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Delhi to explain how the informal garbage collection and recycling system has survived the threat of mechanization and displacement. She is pleased to announce the publica tion of a first piece from this project: Kornberg, Dana. 2019. “Garbage as Fuel: Pursuing Incineration to Counter Stigma in Postcolonial Urban India.” Local Environment, 24(1): 1-17.

Shoujy Paranjape is a 2nd year PhD student at the Doctoral Program in History. Mukherjee is interested in a longer pre-history and history of the post-partition neighbourhoods in Delhi. Starting from the anti-Sikh genocide of 1984, Mukherjee seeks to move back in time to understand the quotidian lives and the making of Delhi as the urban space, which was the backdrop of the violence. He spent most of the 2019 summer meeting octogenarian Sikh partition refugees in Delhi and rummaging through the archives in Delhi in search of the documentary traces of Delhi’s making.

Dana Kornberg’s dissertation, which she is simultaneously working on as a book project, draws on 20 months of ethnographic fieldwork in Delhi to explain how the informal garbage collection and recycling system has survived the threat of mechanization and displacement. She is pleased to announce the publication of a first piece from this project: Kornberg, Dana. 2019. “Garbage as Fuel: Pursuing Incineration to Counter Stigma in Postcolonial Urban India.” Local Environment, 24(1): 1-17.

This year, we were lucky to host seven students from ISERP-Pune in India and one student from Habib University in Pakistan. The students lived in the International House for ten weeks. They cooked and ate communally, attending Ann Arbor events like Summerfest and Shakespeare in the Arb on their occasional breaks from research and classes. CSAS spent a wonderful Friday morning kayaking the Huron River with the students. We asked them about their experiences in the program so far. Here’s ISERP student Shujay Paranjape on his studies, research, and favorite places in Ann Arbor.

CSAS: What do you study, and why did you decide to come to the University of Michigan for the summer?
Shujay Paranjape: I study chemical ecology at ISERP-Pune. I applied for this program because Michigan is known for its ecology and evolutionary biology department and I wanted to do fieldwork in plant biology. So I focused on labs in plant biology, and then I got into one.
CSAS: What has your research consisted of so far?
Shujay: I’ve done fieldwork most of the time in sun rain and sun; I’ve been digging up field plots and sowing seeds. I think the farming experience was something I did not have in India. It’s very different, how you farm here and how you farm back home.
CSAS: Where in Ann Arbor have you been farming?
Shujay: My fields are in the Matthae Botanical Gardens. We have eleven plots there scattered around the garden, about 50 meters apart from each other. We are mostly growing weeds in there. We study their resistance to herbicides, because most of the weeds are resistant to herbicides, and that’s really a problem for the farmers.
CSAS: What else have you learned about herbicides?
Shujay: One of the herbicides we are using is obsolete now. It’s just useless on any farm. Most of the weeds have a resistance to them, especially the morning glories. I study this same genera back home in a different context, but my knowledge on it has grown throughout my time here.
CSAS: So, switching gears to the kayaking trip — it wasn’t your first time kayaking, right?
Shujay: No, I’ve been white water rafted in India so it was close enough. That’s a bit more strenuous and the kayaking was really cool. I think I was tired towards the end but the detergent upstream was fun. I kayaked again this Thursday with my lab mates and we finished the entire trip in one hour.
CSAS: And how long do you think it took us?
Shujay: It took us three or three-and-a-half hours, I think.
CSAS: Do you have any favorite spots in Ann Arbor?
Shujay: I like this one spot in the Nichols Arboretum, towards the north side. I’ve taken a couple of pictures there. It’s quite high, and there are a couple of benches. You can just sit on the benches and look down from the top at the whole arboretum. I like that spot, and am planning to visit it again before I leave.

For a full, podcast version of our conversation with Sujay and the rest of the ISERP-Pune cohort, visit www.umindiaimpact.org.

CSAS International Student Programs

“IT’S QUITE HIGH, AND THERE ARE A COUPLE OF BENCHES. YOU CAN JUST SIT ON THE BENCHES AND LOOK DOWN FROM THE TOP AT THE WHOLE ARBORETUM. I LIKE THAT Spot, AND AM PLANNING TO VISIT IT AGAIN BEFORE I LEAVE.”
Brennan Burrows is a freshman planning to study public health sciences. His future plans include attending medical school, becoming a surgeon, and working with underserved populations. During his 2 months in India, Brennan plans to be interning in a program called “Smile on Wheels,” where Brennan’s project will investigate the burden of diseases affecting different locations receiving healthcare from Smile Foundation. He will then travel to two of these locations in Surat and Kolkata, volunteering with the mobile clinic health.

Sachit Grever is a junior studying marketing and strategy. In correspondence to his business school curriculum, he has two minors in acting and performing arts management. He is very interested in the intersection of business within the entertainment industry—specifically Bollywood, the Indian film industry. He will be volunteering for four weeks in May 2019 at a Bollywood film production company this summer to learn the ins and outs of how movies are made and market started to finish. He wants to specifically understand how social justice movies are made and how sensitive topics are addressed to the public. Upon graduation, he aims to work full time in the Bollywood industry. One of his goals in the future is to create an arts organization for underprivileged children to help recruit talent for the Bollywood industry.

Joseph Pongrac is a sophomore pursuing a BS in biophysics, cognition, neuroscience and a minor in business administration. He has concentrated on personality and relationship psychology with special interest in stress and hormones. He aspires to earn an MD to gain a holistic perspective on healthcare from hospital administration to patient care. With this, he plans to continue exploring the intersection between business and healthcare. His goals include increasing access to healthcare internationally and designing non-profit health organizations in order to alleviate healthcare inequalities in developing regions.

Rachel Rich is a sophomore majoring in biophysics, cognition, and neuroscience and works for two research labs at U-M: Ethan Knoll ’s Emotion Self Control Lab, and Robin Edelstein’s Relationships & Hormones Lab. After graduation, she plans to attend graduate school to pursue a PhD in psychology. Rachael will be spending a portion of her summer with UM-MEED, an NGO that works holistically to promote emotional and psychological wellness for people from socially and economically deprived backgrounds. Her final project will highlight mental health stigma and disparities for men and women in India, and pose answers to questions regarding societal norms within psychological counseling.

Shannon Shaughnessy is a junior studying psychology with a minor in international studies. She is particularly interested in the intersection of culture and psychology in adolescents. After graduation, she hopes to get a PhD and work with children in a research setting. Shannon will be spending eight weeks in Bangalore volunteering for Enabling Leadership, a nonprofit that helps cultivate leadership skills in children through innovative soccer, music, and LEGO programs. She will help create and validate a new scale to measure life skill attainment in children. Shannon’s final project will explore how EL’s programs lead to an overall improvement in mental health.

Blaine Teahan is a sophomore studying biochemistry with admission to the School of Public Health pending. He has interests in global and community health and aims to extend healthcare to underserved communities. He also has interests in biomedical research and works in the Muntain lab in the U-M Medical School, studying leukemia. Upon graduation, he hopes to join the Peace Corps, and then likely pursue a postgraduate education—whether that be in medicine, public health, or biomedical research. Other interests include soccer, ultimate frisbee, travel, and Mandarin Chinese.

Organized in 2006 with a generous donation from an anonymous donor, the Summer in South Asia Fellowship (SSA) has provided over 100 students with funding for research and internships in India. Please join us on October 4 for the Summer in South Asia Symposium or visit the blog (https://asia.umsi.umich.edu) to learn more about the 2019 SSA Fellows’ time in India.

Omar Uddin is a sophomore majoring in business administration with a minor in writing. Education equality will be his reflection topic, as he examines the ways in which leaders in India are resolving inequities in education in America, where our class hierarchy is heavily ingrained. Major education inequities run along racial and social class lines. Finding solutions to these issues is his life goal.

Ryan Woock is a sophomore planning to study public policy with minors in Asian studies and business. Post-graduation, he plans to work in international relations, investment banking, or attend law school. Ryan will be staying in Pondicherry to work with Prime Trust, a microfinance NGO. He will primarily focus on local women’s groups, identifying and developing projects to promote economic self-sufficiency. He also hopes to gain insight into how the new regulatory environment has affected the day-to-day operations of the organization.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT
Our center depends upon your generosity. If you would like to make a gift you may do so online by going to our website at: ii.umich.edu/css and clicking on the “Give Online” button.

You may also call the Gift Help Hotline from Monday through Friday, any time between 8 am and 5 pm: 1-888-518-7888.

Thank you for considering a gift to the CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES!
September 13, 2019
David Brick, Assistant Professor of Sanskrit
Literature at the University of Michigan
Widows Under Hindu Law: an Overview
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

September 20, 2019
Thomas R. Trautmann Honorary Lecture
Christopher Minkowski, Boden Professor of Sanskrit at the University of Oxford
Early Readers and Early Readings of the Maha¯bha¯rata
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

October 4, 2019
Summer in South Asia Symposium
4:30 pm • 10th floor • Weiser Hall

October 11, 2019
Subir Sinha, Senior Lecturer in Institutions and Development at the University of London
Of Commodities and Frontiers: Looking for “Capitalism” on the Edges of Britain’s Indian Colonies
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

October 24-25, 2019
The Making of the Cambridge History of the Modern Indian Subcontinent Conference
Room 1014 • Tisch Hall

November 1, 2019
Debjani Ganguly, Professor of English and Director Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia
World Literature, the Global South and Indian Ocean Worlds
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

November 22, 2019
Devesh Kapur, Starr Foundation Professor of South Asian Studies and Director of Asia Programs at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies
The Indian State that Fails and Delivers
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

December 5, 2019
EIHS Lecture
Samia Khatun, Associate Professor of History at the University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh
The Pen and a Sea of Pearls: Decolonising Contemporary Historical Storytelling
4pm • Room 1014 • Tisch Hall

Every Wednesday
January 22 – April 1, 2020
Documentaries from the Traveling Film South Asia Series
6:30 pm • Room 555 • Weiser Hall

February 14, 2020
Muhammad Q. Zaman, Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Religion at Princeton University’s Department of Religion
Islam and the Lessons of Pakistan’s History
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

March 13, 2020
10th U-M Pakistan Conference
10th floor • Weiser Hall

March 27, 2020
Tarangini Sriraman, Professor of Politics and History at Azim Premji University in India
In defence of collateral evidence: Refugees and Post-Partition IDs in Delhi
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

April 3, 2020
Vivek Bald, Comparative Media Studies at MIT
The Price of Acceptability: On South Asian Inclusion and Exclusion in the U.S.
4:30 pm • Room 110 • Weiser Hall

April 17, 2020
Kavita S. Datla Memorial Lecture
Muzaffar Alam, Professor in South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago
Who was a Muslim? Religious Ideas and Muslim Identities in Mughal North India
4:30 pm • 10th floor • Weiser Hall

All events are free and open to the public. A complete and updated list can be found on our website, ii.umich.edu/csas/news-events/events.html